

85. (Twice Amended) A vaccine composition comprising a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 and at least one of a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent, wherein said isolate comprises a genomic deletion in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3 and said region comprises the nucleotide sequence coding for amino acids 166-206 of the *nef* protein.

122. (Amended) The method of claim 49, wherein said deletion comprises at least 10 nucleotides.

124. (Amended) A method for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS related diseases, said method comprising administering to said individual a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 in an amount effective to infect target cells and to generate target cells carrying DNA derived from said non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1, wherein said isolate comprises a genomic deletion of at least 10 nucleotides in the region corresponding to nucleotides 9281-9438 of the *nef* gene and U3 long terminal repeat, wherein said nucleotide numbering is based upon HIV-1 strain NL4-3.

129. (Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 85, wherein said deletion comprises at least 10 nucleotides.

134. (Amended) A therapeutic composition useful for inhibiting or reducing productive infection by a pathogenic strain of HIV-1 and/or for vaccinating an individual against the development of AIDS or AIDS-related diseases, said composition comprising a non-pathogenic isolate of HIV-1 and at least one of a pharmaceutical acceptable carrier or a diluent, wherein said HIV-1 strain comprises a genomic deletion of at least 10 nucleotides in the region corresponding